

# Teaching Digital Citizenship Reflection: A Four-Stage Technology Learning Framework

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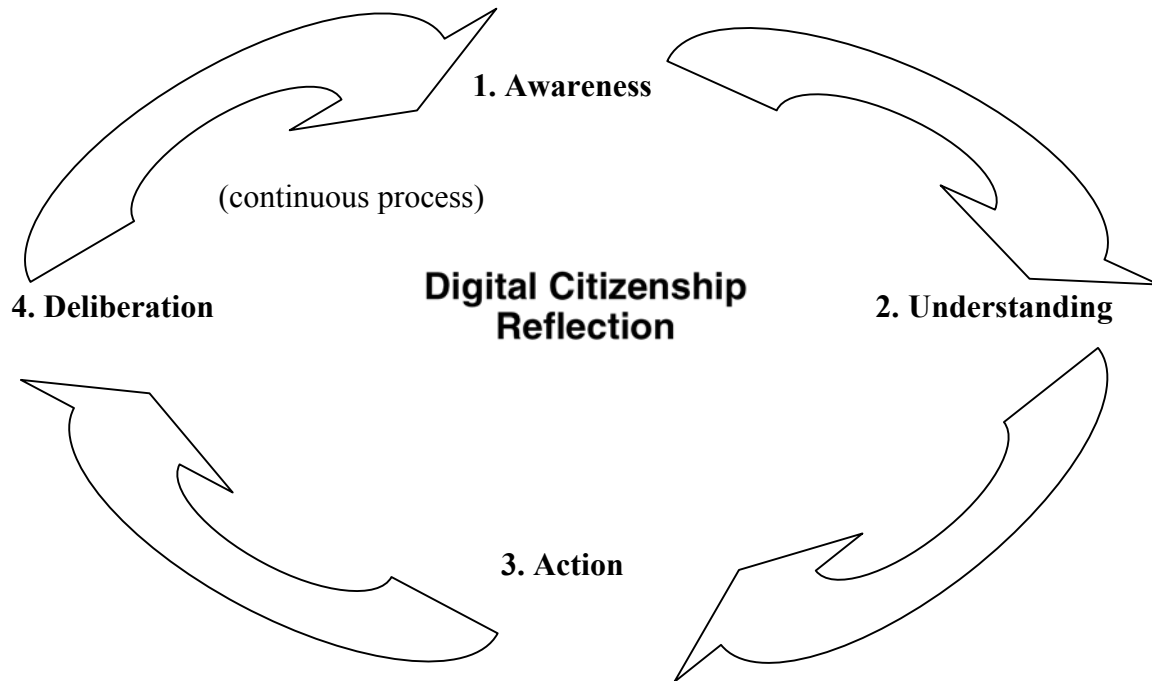


# Teaching Digital Citizenship Reflection: A Four-Stage Technology Learning Framework

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## Four-Stage Technology Learning Framework for Teaching Digital Citizenship



**1. Awareness** -- knowledge of technology and how it affects others and myself.

Many people use technology without having even a basic awareness of the purpose of a digital technology. Students need to “see themselves” using technology before using it. Without awareness, many problems emerge without users realizing it.

Student Questions:

- Do I recognize when there is an issue of inappropriate use of technology? Why or why not?
- Have I considered the appropriateness of my actions? Why or why not?
- Can I differentiate which of my actions are considered misuse or abuse? Why or why not?
- Am I aware of the implications of my actions when using technology? Why or why not?

**2. Understanding** -- ability to grasp the uses of technology that are considered appropriate or inappropriate.

Once there is awareness of how a technology works, then users need to identify which uses are considered misuse or abuse to better understand appropriate technology use. Users need to have an idea of the outcome of their actions prior to it happening.

Student Questions:

- Am I violating laws, policies, or moral codes by using technology in this way? Why or why not?
- Have I seen, read, or heard of similar situations? What was the outcome?
- Does Digital Citizenship provide direction for determining the appropriateness of my actions? How?

**3. Action** -- using technology in the most appropriate way with the information available.

Being able to use technology by understanding its implications to others and self is a critical process in Digital Citizenship. Too often users only are concerned with this stage without reflecting on the other parts of Four-Stage Technology Learning Framework. But by moving through the earlier stages they and others around them can have a better experience using technology.

Student Questions:

- Given the information available, have I made the best decision in this situation? Why or why not?
- How would others, who I respect, act in a similar situation?
- Do the tenants of Digital Citizenship support my action in this situation? Why or why not?

**4. Deliberation** -- thinking about how technology was used and determining if it was appropriate.

It can be difficult to “go back” and think about one’s actions after they occurred. It is a necessary part of the process to decide if the user was correct or not. Without time to contemplate, this action will most be the same action in the future.

Student Questions:

- Am I satisfied with my decision? Why or why not?
- Am I satisfied with the outcome of the situation? Why or why not?
- Did my behavior have a positive or negative influence on others? Why?
- Do I go back and evaluate how I used the technology and look for changes that might be considered for the future? Why or why not?
- Do I think about the nine areas of digital citizenship and see if there are improvements that should be evaluated? Why or why not?

## Lisa's Birthday Present

Lisa wants a cell phone. She feels "out of touch" with her friends because they "all have cell phones and they want to keep in touch with her." Lisa's parents are concerned about having their daughter act responsible when using a cell phone. They have seen friends' children use cell phones inappropriately on numerous occasions (e.g. talking to their friends when they are with their parents, talking loudly in public, taking pictures without people's permission). They are especially concerned about safety issues (such as driving a car while using a cell phone). After careful thought, Lisa's parents decide to buy her a cell phone for her upcoming sixteenth birthday.

As Lisa's birthday gets closer they go out and begin to look at different phones and wireless plans. Lisa would like a small cell phone with a built-in camera so that she can take pictures of her friends. Her parents are not sure if having a phone with a camera is a good idea, but their price is almost the same as the regular cell phones. On her birthday, Lisa's parents present her with the cell phone. But they make one request. Before she begins using the cell phone, she must follow the Four-Stage Learning Framework (engage in Digital Reflection) before using her cell phone on a regular basis.

### Stage 1 – Awareness

### Stage 2 – Understanding

### Stage 3 – Action

### Stage 4 – Deliberation